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Title: Need for construction of a new rail line between Gopalpur and Rourkela via Angul and Talcher in Orissa during the Tenth Plan period- Laid.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (DHENKANAL): The proposal to construct a new Railway line from Gopalpur to Rourkela via Angul and Talcher has been pending since long. The new track will connect the harbour town of Gopalpur in the South to the Steel city of Rourkela in the north via Berhampur, Aska, Bhanjanagar, Daspalla, Gania, Narsingpur, Hindol, Angul, Talcher, Samal, Palalahara, Barkot and Lahunipada. The line will connect the proposed steel plant at Gopalpur and the entire mining areas in the districts of Dhenkanal, Angul, Deogarh and Sundargarh. This will facilitate the procurement of mineral from the mining areas to the proposed steel plant at Gopalpur at cheaper rate and on the shortest route. Moreover, products from Rourkela steel plant can be transported to Gopalpur harbour for onward transmission through sea route. The proposed line which will be economically most viable will go a long way in promoting the economy of a poor state like Orissa. Besides, it will also connect the world famous pilgrim town Puri with northern Western and southern Orissa.

In view of this, I urge upon the Govt. of India to include the proposal to construct the Railway line from Gopalpur to Rourkela during Tenth plan period.